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1388

31 March 1973

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Covert Action Options for Chile - FY 1974

The various covert action options for Chile listed below are not mutually exclusive. It would appear that our objectives can best be achieved by keeping open as many options as possible so that we can take advantage of new developments which may work to our advantage, such as a split in the UP or serious economic disintegration. Cost requirements should also be as flexible as possible; so that relatively modest maintenance subsidies and action programs could be expanded rapidly if circumstances require.

[REDACTED]

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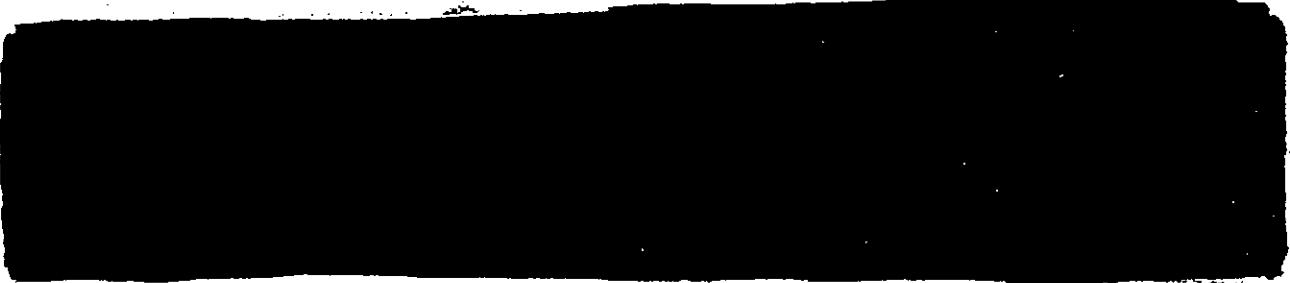
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RECOMMENDATION

Although we should keep all options open, including a possible future coup, we should recognize that the ingredients for a successful coup are unlikely to materialize regardless of the amount of money expended, and thus we should avoid encouraging the private sector to initiate action likely to produce either an abortive coup or a bloody civil war. We should make it clear that we will not support a coup attempt unless it becomes clear that such a coup would have the support of most of the Armed Forces as well as the CODE parties, including the PDC. These conditions would rule out Option IV for the foreseeable future.

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It is recommended that we continue to support the opposition parties and to work toward the 1976 election, with special emphasis on the lower class electorate. It is also recommended that we provide some support to assist the private sector to organize [redacted] but this support must be carefully monitored. The private sector is becoming desperate, and its leaders are probably right in believing that only a successful coup can save them. However sympathetic we may be to their plight, we must be objective about their prospects for success.

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